

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions
and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) A collapsible steering column
2 assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including, a steering
3 column mounting bracket having, at a forward end thereof,
4 itself being mountable on a vehicle body part, there being
5 a deformable component that supports a lower subassembly of
6 said steering column is joined to the mounting bracket and
7 that can collapse in the event of a vehicle crash thereby
8 to absorb energy.

1 2. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 wherein the deformable component is unitary integral with
3 the mounting bracket.

1 3. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 wherein the mounting bracket supports an upper subassembly
3 and said lower subassembly subassemblies of the steering
4 column.

1 4. (Original) An assembly according to claim 3,
2 wherein the upper and lower subassemblies are slidably
3 mounted one on the other.

1 5. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 wherein the deformable component has a normal positional
3 relationship with the mounting bracket in which it is
4 restrained by at least one locating device means.

1 6. (Currently amended) An assembly according to
2 claim 5, wherein the locating device means comprises at
3 least one slot in the mounting bracket and a locating pin
4 on the deformable component.

1 7. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 6,
2 wherein there are two such said locating devices having
3 respective slots and locating pins that mate with their
4 respective slots.

1 8. (Original) An assembly according to claim 6, wherein
2 the slot is an open slot.

1 9. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 5,
2 wherein the locating device means comprises at least one
3 slot in the deformable component and a locating pin on the
4 mounting bracket.

1 10. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 9
2 1, wherein there are two such said locating devices having
3 respective slots and locating pins that mate with their
4 respective slots.

1 11. (Original) An assembly according to claim 9, wherein
2 the slot is an open slot.

1 12. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein
2 the deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip
3 so configured as to provide a region of weakness about
4 which the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon
5 receiving a compressive force along the length of the
6 strip.

1 13. (Currently amended) A collapsible steering column
2 assembly for a vehicle, the assembly including, a steering
3 column mounting bracket having at a forward end thereof a

4 deformable component that supports a lower subassembly of
5 said steering column and that can collapse in the event of
6 a vehicle crash thereby to absorb energy, wherein the
7 deformable component comprises at least one stiff strip so
8 configured as to provide a region of weakness about which
9 the strip can be bent and thus collapsed upon receiving a
10 compressive force along the length of the strip, and An
11 assembly according to claim 12 wherein said strip has one
12 end that is joined to the mounting bracket and another end
13 that is free, said free end of the strip forming a mounting
14 for a pivot member.

1 14. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 13
2 10, wherein the pivot member supports a universal joint
3 bearing assembly of the steering column.

1 15. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1,
2 further including and having a provision for rake and/or
3 reach adjustment of the steering column.

1 16. (New) A collapsible steering column assembly for a
2 vehicle, comprising:

3 upper and lower subassemblies that are slidable one
4 within the other;

5 the upper subassembly being slidably mounted on a
6 fixed mounting bracket mountable on a vehicle body part;

7 the mounting bracket including, at its end remote from
8 the upper subassembly, a deformable bracket supporting said
9 lower subassembly and capable of deformation toward the
10 upper subassembly so as to allow movement of said lower
11 subassembly toward said upper subassembly in the event of a
12 vehicle crash.

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1 17. (New) A collapsible steering column assembly for a
2 vehicle, comprising:

3 upper and lower subassemblies that are slidable one
4 within the other;

5 the upper subassembly being slidably mounted on a
6 fixed mounting bracket mountable on a vehicle body part;

7 the mounting bracket including, at its end remote from
8 the upper subassembly, a deformable bracket supporting said
9 lower subassembly and capable of deformation toward the
10 upper subassembly to absorb impact of a primary collision.
